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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12668 271732Z

64
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 /029 W
---------- 018694
R 271310Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8000
INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA
FM MADRAS AUG 27/76 FOR YOUR INFO

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 1544

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IN
SUBJECT: PRE-CENSORSHIP OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS

REF: (A) MADRAS 1511
(B) BOMBAY 2253

1. DISTRIBUTION OF MADRAS EDITION OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS CONTINUES TO BE DELAYED, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM BANGALORE THAT SIMILAR DELAYS IN CLEARING PROOFS WITH THE CENSORS ARE TAKING PLACE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, EDITORS IN BANGALORE ATTEMPTED TO LIQUOR UP THE CENSORS, BUT THIS TACTIC FAILED WHEN HIGHER OFFICIALS FOUND OUT AND PUT A STOP TO IT.

2. CIRCULATION OF THE MADRAS EDITION IS BEGINNING TO FALL, PARTICULARLY FOR THE SUNDAY STANDARD. LAST SUNDAY ABOUT 6,000 COPIES WERE DROPPED FROM THE AGENTS' ORDERS OUT OF TOTAL NORMAL CIRCULATION OF 47,000.

3. ON THE LEGAL SIDE, IN ADDITION TO THE PETITION REPORTED IN REFTEL B, PROPRIETOR OF THE EXPRESS GROUP R.N. GOENKA FILED A CONTEMPT
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VOF COURT PETITION AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, SAMACHAR

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AND 36 NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY FOR PUBLISHING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM A MONTH AGO REGARDING FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CASES AGAINST HIM WHICH ARE PENDING. THIS DISPUTE STARTED A MONTH AGO WHEN SAMACHAR DISTRIBUTED A STORY CONTAINING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN UNNAMED PERSON. GOENKA ISSUED A REBUTTAL THE NEXT DAY, BUT IT WAS NOT CARRIED BY MANY PAPERS. AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, SAMACHAR CARRIED A LENGTHIERREPORT ON THE ALLEGATIONS AND CITED GOENKA BY NAME. AT THIS POINT GOENKA FILED HIS CONTEMPT OF COURT PETITION.

THE CASE HAD ITS FIRST MEETING LAST WEEK IN THE MADRAS CHIEF PRESIDENCY (METROPOLITAN) MAGISTRATE'S COURT, WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEWSPAPERS AND OTHERS APPEARED IN COURT. THE NEXT HEARING IS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 13.
SCOTT
UNQTE SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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